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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/605,733	10/22/2003	Irving Toivo Salmeen	FGT 1840 PA	2732

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EXAMINER

A, MINH D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2821

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/605,733

Applicant(s)

SALMEEN ET AL.

Examiner

Minh D A

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a response to the Applicant's filing on 12/23/05. In virtue of this filing, claims 1-20 are currently presented in the instant applicant.
2. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn. In view of a further consideration, however, a new rejection is set forth below. This action is not made final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stam et al (US 6, 928,180).

Regarding claim 19, figure 33, Stam discloses a vehicle object detection system comprising: at least one light sources (111); at least one beam-forming assembly optically coupled to said at least one light source (111) and forming an illumination beam; a transceiver (having emitter) for generating a first communication signal and receiver (3304) for receiving a second communication

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signal generated from at least one object that is external to the vehicle in response to said first communication signal; and a controller (3303) couple to said at least one beam-forma assembly and said receiver(3304) and adjusting the illumination beam in response to the second communication signal. See col.61, lines 65 to col.64, lines 1-45.

Regarding claim 20, Stam discloses a headlight system comprising photo-detector (3320) for detecting at least one communication signal generated from the at least object (13) and the secondary headlight system for adjusting illumination output of the vehicle headlight system in response to the at least one communication signal. See figures 33-34, 50b-50c.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-18 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Prior art does not teach that, at least one object detection sensor for detecting at least one object and generating at least one object detecting signal and a controller coupled to said at least one beam-foming assembly and the at least one object detection sensor and adjusting illumination output of the at least one light source in response to the object detection signal; wherein adjusting the illumination output comprises adjusting an illumination parameters selected from at least one of beam pattern, beam location, beam focus and beam angle recited in independent claim 1.

Citation of relevant prior art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Prior art Stam et al . (U.S. Patent No. 2004/0143380) discloses a image acquisition and processing and exterior lighting control.

Prior art Stam et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,947,576) discloses a system for controlling exterior vehicle lights.

Prior art Stam et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,429,594) discloses a continuously variable headlamp..

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Dieu A whose telephone number is (571) 272-1817. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (5:30 AM-2:45 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Callahan can be reached on (571) 272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair->

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direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



TUYET VO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Examiner

Minh A

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4/2/06